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## AWDF May 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting opened at 8:35 a.m.

The secretary reminded the attendees that the meeting is being recorded.

Attendance:

President: Al Govednik; Vice President: Lyle Roetemeyer  
Secretary: Michelle Testa ; Treasurer: Sean O'Kane Absent  
Executive Delegates: Vera Reeves, Dyan Harper

Member Clubs & Delegates

United States Boxer Association - Mark Chase

United Doberman Club - Wendy Schmidt

Working Riesenschнауzer Federation – Chantal P. Young

United Schutzhund Clubs of America – Craig Groh

North American Working Bouvier – Carol Walker,

American Working Malinois Association – Anne Camper

Federation American Bulldog - Paige Shriver, Ann Conroy

Working Pit Bull Terrier Club of America – Ron Marshall

LV/DVG America – Bill Harper

Working Black Russian Terrier Club of America – Patty Bartley, Anne Marie Chaffin

North American Ring Association - Dave Kroyer

United States Rottweiler Club – Absent

Working Dutch Shepherd Association -Absent

The Society in America for the Cane Corso Italiano (guest status no vote) - Absent

Authentic Hovawarts of North America - Absent

United States Mondioring Association – Absent

N A Working Airedale Terrier Association - Absent

President's Report – Read and report submitted to the AWDF Secretary:

Hello fellow working dog enthusiasts.

Since I became the American Working Dog Federation president in 2004, we have made great strides in relation to the working dog in America and abroad. We currently have 14 member clubs and 3 guest clubs in our federation, and are working on increasing the size of a few others. I would like to thank the USCa, and specifically Lyle Roetemeyer, for all of the help, support, and dedication he has given to our federation. I really feel our federation is a team effort, as well as a work in progress. Along with Mr. Roetemeyer, I would I would also like to thank our entire executive board, starting with Michelle Testa,

our tireless secretary; Sean O'Kane, our past treasurer; and executive board members at large Dyan Harper and Vera Reeves.

I would like to thank Mr. Nate Harves and all of the people within the OG Landshark community for all of their hard work and dedication to making this event a success. A special thanks to our slate of judges, Pierre Wahlstrom, Igor Lengvarsky, Simon Kwak, and Alfred Hupfauer. Certainly a big thank you goes out to all the competitors. I wish everyone good luck at our competition, the best of times while you are in the Indianapolis, Indiana, area, and all the best in the future.

A huge highlight from the past year came when the FCI General Committee agreed to the below. Clearance for FCI judges to officiate at American Working Dogs Federation (AWDF) events. Since the AWDF has been attending the commission's meetings for a couple of years, taking part in the world championships, there is no reason to oppose this request. The FCI judges are therefore allowed to judge at AWDF events provided that they have the approval of their national canine organizations.

During our FCI judges trip to Breda, the following was given in a report. Some specific rules and behaviors were emphasized.

Frans Jansen gave a presentation relating to the overall conduct expected at IPO trials. We had 5 of the 7 authors of the new rules present and able to answer questions. This better clarified the rules and left less doubt as to possible interpretations. The authors present were Frans Jansen, Robert Markschlager, Guenther Diegel, Pierre Wahlstrom, and Edgar Scherkl.

Some of the overall changes:

1. During the temperament test, the dog must allow himself to be touched.
2. IPO is now the ONLY name for the sport. SchH and VPG titles will no longer be awarded.
3. Each dog will only have ONE score book and the score book MUST be turned in before the event starts.
4. ALL dogs MUST be identified by either tattoo OR microchip.

While attending the FCI working commission meeting last September, our vice president, Lyle Roetemeyer, was informed that Belgium has developed a new system for procuring judges and the AWDF is now the official contact in the United States for procuring Belgian Judges. The AKC is no longer the official contact of the VDDH for request of Belgian Judges to officiate events in the United States. Alfons van den Bosch will have more information on contact in Belgium.

In August of this last year, through the use of the USCA, we were able to host a IPO judges' meeting that was open to all AWDF clubs. Frans Jensen, the president of the FCI Working Commission and the chairman of the committee that wrote the new IPO rules, was our guest instructor. All the judges in attendance were able to ask questions, offer suggestions, and have an opportunity to interact with one another. This truly should benefit the AWDF/IPO community in America.

As our federation grows and matures, we all will encounter new challenges for ourselves and our working dogs. I am confident that the working people throughout our country and the world (via the FCI) will continue to protect and improve our working breeds and our sport.

From a personal standpoint, being an active member of our federation can be quite rewarding, as well as humbling at times. Our federation plays a key role in the development and preservation of the working dog worldwide.

With all the above said, I take great pride, and consider it truly an honor to have received so much support throughout this past year, as well as all the years past, as the AWDF president. I will continue to

do my best to look for ways to provide opportunities for our membership, protect our working breeds, and support all the programs related to the working dog that we as a federation have come to embrace.

Vice President Report – report read and submitted to the AWDF Secretary:

It has been an honor to represent the member clubs of the American Working Dog Federation as your Vice President. During my time as the Federation Vice President, I feel, without question, that we have been successful in furthering the goals of protecting the working heritage of our beloved working breeds, the breed evaluations and dog sports with which we are all actively involved. The AWDF continues to grow, and as we grow, we must continue to be true to our working breeds that our individual clubs represent. Continuing to build a strong future for our breed and sport clubs lies in our understanding of loyalty to the goals of the Federation and our ability to work with and support all member clubs of the AWDF. Enabling these goals starts with each one of our individual AWDF member clubs. It is important that those who are selected by their organizations to serve the AWDF in any capacity, whether it is as an officer, delegate, committee member, trial helper, etc., continue to be given the positive support they need from the club they are representing in addition to the Federation as a whole. We must continue to support each other's sanctions against those whose actions would do harm to the Federation.

As we continue to work together to build a strong future, we should continue our adherence to the FCI standards for structure and temperament. We must support our fellow member clubs in their efforts to promote the goals of the AWDF. We must respect each club's need to provide the best opportunities for their members. I ask each of you to continue to support the AWDF as the driving force that it has become in helping our member clubs gain both national and international recognition and support. As leaders of our own individual organizations and as delegates to the AWDF, we must be cognizant that good leaders are good arbitrators. When misunderstandings arise between member clubs, and sometimes they will, we should encourage those members to work out a fair and lasting understanding. We should never attempt to encourage more misunderstandings by making volatile statements aimed at promoting discord.

Our relationship with the FCI has grown strong over the past few years, thanks to the efforts of all AWDF member clubs, but mostly due to the untiring efforts of the leadership of this federation of clubs. As we prepare for the future, we must plan for possibilities that many new clubs and different working disciplines will be attracted to the positives of membership within the AWDF. We must decide if we are willing to take on these new clubs, and how we will continue to ensure that the original purpose of the AWDF will always be the focal point and allow us to maintain our goals.

I wish each of you happiness and success with your dogs in all walks of your life!

Secretary report – Meeting minutes from April 23, 2012 conference call

The Secretary asked if there were any questions in regard to the last conference call minutes

Anne Camper made the motion to accept the April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 minutes

Carol Walker seconded the motion

All were in favor

None opposed

Motion passed

Treasurer report – Budget

No report

Anne Camper made a strong suggestion to have an audit of the AWDF financial books before transferring them on to the new treasurer.

Carol Walker made the motion that the AWDF finances be independently audited if affordable as part of the transfer process to the new treasurer.

Wendy Schmitt seconded the motion

All were in favor

None opposed

Motion passed

Craig Groh stated a point of order

This motion should be conducted under new business that this is an inappropriate time for this motion

#### Old Business

Subjects covered at April 23, 2012 teleconference

AWDF constitution and by-laws – review from the FCI Working Commission

The AWDF president, AWDF Secretary and Frans Jansen were unable to connect due to conflicting schedules between AWDF president and Mr. Jansen. A report will be forthcoming by next conference call.

Voting structure change

Update on change of committee chair from Al Govednik to Lyle Roetemeyer

Lyle spoke with a couple of people on the committee (Carol Walker & Al Govednik). Those spoken to feel there really needs to be a review of the current structure of the AWDF, and not just the voting process, to protect the organization in the future.

Lyle stated there are world organizations that vote by equal representation as compared to the amount of money they pay in.

The committee is Lyle Roetemeyer, Wendy Schmitt, Dyan Harper and Vera Reeves.

Carol Walker stated that the AWDF has made steps forward, matured significantly, and asked if the present structure still serves the federation for the future while protecting its mission.

Anne Camper reminded the attendees that we have good intentions but no progress. A timeline on getting this project to move forward is needed, as well as a good review of our by-laws.

The voting structure committee needs to be broadened to cover the whole AWDF constitution and by-laws.

The president stated that the last change was in 2004

A further investigation is needed to collect more information on the subject.

Carol Walker made the motion that the committee will have by the next conference call a prepared report, final name to the committee, outline on membership structure, brief outline of tasks and a tentative schedule. This committee replaces the voting structure committee.

Anne Camper seconded the motion.

All were in favor

None opposed

Aggressive Dog Policy

No committee as of yet

Lyle Roetemeyer stated USCA had legal counsel go over their club policy.

Any new policy needs a specific effective date.

The secretary states that a committee needs to be made for the development of the policy.

The suggestion was read for the AWDF policy

“The term aggression will be defined as:

A dog that bites a person and/ or another dog

A dog that initiates aggression toward another dog

A dog that expresses aggression (as defined by the above explanations) at any time from the official Championship check in until closing ceremonies/event end; will result in immediate dismissal from the

trial with all scores and rating deleted and the notation made in the score book dismissed / aggression to dog and/ or person.”

Craig Groh made a suggestion of an adjective such as significant to describe the behavior, also stating that it can be subjective.

Carol Walker asked that if any clubs have policies in place if they could email them to her and she would compile them for the committee.

Committee for the Aggressive policy

AWDF Secretary (chair), Anne Camper, Al Govednik, Bill Bimrose and Carol Walker

MOTION

Anne Camper made motion that new committee review draft policy and have a report by the next conference call.

Craig Groh seconded the motion

All in favor

None opposed

### New Business

Elections

President – Albert Govednik (uncontested)

Dyan Harper made motion Al Govednik be elected as President by acclamation

Anne Camper seconded

All in favor

None opposed

Al Govednik is elected by acclamation

Treasurer

Candidates: Chantal P. Young WRSF, Dana McMahan AWMA, Aja Harris WPBTCA

Executive director.

Candidates: Vera Reeves WRSF (incumbent), Wendy Schmitt UDC, Warren Jones AWMA, Dan Williams WPBTCA, Frank Phillips UScA, Bill Bimrose UScA (Jim Alloway withdrew his candidacy)

Resumes were reviewed. Candidates who were present spoke briefly; Craig Groh asked the candidates running for treasurer for their experience with financial work.

Ballots were handed out

### Election Results

Treasurer - Chantal P Young WRSF - 9 votes

Dana McMahan - 7 votes

Aja Harris - 0 votes

Executive Director at Large – 2 positions

Vera Reeves (incumbent) WRSF - 8 votes

Bill Bimrose UScA - 8 votes

Wendy Schmitt UDC - 7 votes

Warren Jones AWMA - 6 votes

Frank Phillips UScA - 2 votes

Dan Williams WPBTCA - 1 vote

### Board of Inquiry

Nominations from the floor

Bill Harper, Christopher Smith, Ann Dolan, Dan Williams, Carol Walker

Alternates Mark Chase and Anne Camper

Lyle Roetemeyer made the motion to accept the nominations by acclamation.

Michelle Testa seconded the motion.

All in favor  
Motioned passed.

Bill Harper made the motion to adjourn.  
Bill Bimrose seconded the motion.  
All were in favor.  
Meeting closed 9:53 am